

August 26, 2009
NEWS RELEASE

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Six Commissions for Bike Racks Awarded to Kentucky Artists

The Owensboro Public Art Commission (OPAC) has awarded five Kentucky artists six commissions to create bike racks for its initial **ARTRACKS** project.

Entries were received from artists across Kentucky competing for commissions to build bicycle racks to be installed at Owensboro's non-profit cultural organizations. Sites include the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art, RiverPark Center, Owensboro Symphony Orchestra, Western Kentucky Botanical Garden, International Bluegrass Music Museum and Owensboro Area Museum of Science and History.

Artists receiving commissions include Owensboro native Rod Lindauer, who was selected to complete two bike racks, and Louisville sculptors David Caudill, Jen Pellerin, Samantha Griffith and Brandon Harder. The selected artists will submit specific designs to each non-profit arts organization in October and will prepare the racks for installation in early 2010.

Artists were selected for each location by representatives of the non-profit organizations. The organizations were assisted in the process by Ken Herndon, Director of Operations, Louisville Downtown Management District. Herndon, who implemented that city's collection of bike racks, was retained by OPAC to serve as a consultant for the Owensboro project.

OPAC's plans call for a second round of **ARTRACKS** commissions in 2011, which will place additional bike racks throughout Owensboro's new riverfront and downtown developments.

The **ARTRACKS** program, funded by the Marilyn and William Young Foundation, is a part of the OPAC's continuing mission to acquire a public art collection for Owensboro and Daviess County. In 2005, OPAC began the collection with six monumental outdoor sculptures purchased from a national competition, the RIVERBEND SCULPTURE BIENNIAL.

In 2008, OPAC unveiled THE BRONZE BUFFALO TRACE with the installation of a heroic bronze buffalo sculpture at Owensboro Museum of Fine Art's Ryan Park. This long range project calls for the installation of bronze buffalo along the city's major thoroughfare, Frederica Street, which originally was a buffalo trace providing access for early settlers to the banks of the Ohio River.

The Owensboro Public Art Commission is a municipally appointed body charged with the responsibility to implement visual enhancements through the arts. For more information, visit its website at www.opublicart.org.